



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, September 27, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and Fuji TV led with reports on the first TV debate between Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Monday in New York. An NHK reporter said the debate turned into a blame game, adding that Trump interrupted Clinton many times and focused on criticizing the current state of America, the Obama administration, and Clinton's email issue and past remarks about the TPP. NTV and TV Asahi gave top play to follow-up reports on two patients who died at a Yokohama hospital after being given an IV solution containing a foreign substance.

SECURITY

Okinawa prefectural assembly adopts resolution against U.S. aircraft crash

NTV reported at noon that the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly unanimously adopted this morning a resolution of protest against the crash of an AV-8 Harrier in waters off Okinawa on Sept. 22. The network said the resolution also calls for an investigation into the cause of the accident, restriction of flights by U.S. military airplanes from outside Okinawa, and progress on the return of training airspace and waters.

Abe expresses readiness to move forward with helipad construction

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report on Prime Minister Abe's key policy speech at the Diet on Monday, highlighting his comment on the ongoing helipad construction at the Northern Training Area. According to the official transcript posted on the Kantei website, the premier pledged utmost efforts to reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa while maintaining deterrence, and stated that he will

complete the 20-year project to return 4,000 hectares of land by moving the helipads. He added that no further delay will be acceptable in carrying out the project. Ryukyu Shimpo interpreted this remark to mean that Abe intends to complete the construction by as early as the end of this year, saying that this is the first time for the prime minister to express his intention to complete the helipad construction by the end of the year. The paper also wrote that the prime minister did not refer to Futenma relocation in his speech.

Why are F-35s being deployed to Misawa instead of Okinawa?

TV Asahi's "Hodo Station" aired an eight-minute report on Japan's plan to deploy F-35s. During the rollout ceremony for the first F-35A in Texas on Sept. 22, ASDF Chief Of Staff Sugiyama said that Japan's deployment of the aircraft will greatly contribute to the defense of Japan and regional security. China flew more than 40 aircraft over the Miyako Strait in Okinawa on Sept. 25. Center for the National Interest researcher Harry Kazianis told the network that it is necessary for Japan to station the F-35As at bases relatively close to China to counter a threat from that country because although the aircraft has revolutionary capabilities, it has a very short flight range. Why is the Defense Ministry planning to deploy the state-of-the-art aircraft to Misawa AB in Aomori Prefecture, which is located some 2,000 km from Okinawa? The program quoted an unnamed Defense Ministry official as saying that it is difficult for Japan to station the very expensive aircraft in Okinawa due to the risk of Chinese missile attacks against the island. Okinawa is said to be within the range of Chinese missiles.

CCS Suga to visit Okinawa

Okinawa Times wrote that it has learned from a GOJ source that final arrangements are being made for Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga to visit Okinawa for three days starting on Oct. 8. The visit is probably intended to win Okinawa's understanding for the Futenma base's relocation to Henoko. In addition to a meeting with Governor Onaga, the cabinet spokesman plans to view the Northern Training Area and Camp Schwab from a helicopter.

- [**New ACSA enhances SDF's "logistical support" for U.S. military**](#) (Asahi)
- [**New organization to be established to supervise new SDF missions**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Cartoon: Suga and Inada**](#) (Akahata)

INTERNATIONAL

Flight by PLA aircraft over Okinawa strait represents shift toward offensive posture

Regarding the flight by a fleet of eight Chinese military airplanes over the waters between the main island of Okinawa and Miyako Island on Sunday, Asahi noted that since March last year the PLA Air Force has repeatedly conducted training over the western Pacific to improve its offshore combat

capabilities. The paper claimed that the latest flight was part of a drill that involved more than 40 aircraft, including strategic bombers, fighter jets, and an air tanker. The Chinese Air Force is poised to alter its existing posture of primarily defending the country's land and airspace to become more "offense-oriented," with the goal of defending and obtaining maritime interests over a much wider area in the face of America's rebalance to Asia and Japan's increasingly assertive security policy.

- [**Air force drills show China's expanded horizons in Pacific**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Japan may miss the boat on Paris climate accord ratification**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Lower, Upper Houses adopt resolution of protest against DPRK**](#) (Asahi)
- [**Abe mulling trip to observe Northern Territories**](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)

ECONOMY

FM Kishida apologizes for mistranslation of TPP-related documents

Jiji Press reported that FM Kishida commented on the finding that there were mistakes in the Japanese translation of the TPP agreement and a related document that were attached to the TPP bill. He was quoted as telling reporters after a cabinet meeting today: "This is very regrettable. We must take all measures to prevent a recurrence.... We need to provide thorough explanations to the Diet." According to Jiji, Kishida explained that "duplication and omission occurred in some parts of the Japanese translation during the course of editing and printing." He also disclosed that the government is making arrangements to submit an errata to the Diet. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga was quoted as telling a press conference: "I told MOFA not to let anything like this happen again... We remain committed to enacting the bill during the current Diet session." DP Diet Affairs chief Yamai told reporters today that the GOJ needs to resubmit the bill in order to hold deliberations.

- [**NEXI to promote investment in Africa with special insurance for interest rate swaps**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Japan looks abroad, cautiously, for labor shortage solution**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Number of foreign residents reaches all-time high of 2.3 million**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**No local governments face financial collapse in FY2015**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Japan syncing up with US, Germany on 'internet of things'**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Gov't anxious for governors' approval before restarting nuclear plants](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japanese, Russian business leaders to meet for first time in four years](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to push exports of energy-saving tech](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Will third time be the charm for Mitsubishi jet's trip to US?](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 26](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe surprises members by soliciting standing ovation at Diet session](#) (Sankei)
- [Main points of PM Abe's policy speech to the Diet, Sept. 26](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan PM Abe vows action on trade deal, economy as Diet session opens](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe seeks to further debate on top law](#) (The Japan News)
- [In policy speech, Japan's Abe sets sights on 2020](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's Abe focuses on economic reforms in Diet speech](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Experts' analysis of Abe's policy speech](#) (Nikkei)
- [Analysis: Abe conscious of leaving legacy in Diet policy speech](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Aso seeks swift Diet approval for extra budget to support economy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Dominant ruling coalition should engage in proper Diet debate](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Major bills and treaty drafts planned to be discussed in current Diet session](#) (Asahi)
- [Speculation growing on dissolution of Lower House in January](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Four opposition parties may cooperate in Lower House election](#) (Mainichi)

- [26 billion yen of state subsidies for political parties spent in FY2015](#) (Asahi)
- [Two Lower House members join LDP parliamentary group](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: LDP president's term limit](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [91% of Japanese, 76% of Chinese have unfavorable impressions of each other, Genron poll](#) (Asahi)
- [49% disapprove of BOJ's negative interest rate policy, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)

TV PROGRAMS

[Dealing with non-native species in cities](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday night reported on an increase in the number of non-indigenous animals caught in Tokyo and other urban areas, including raccoons from North America, masked palm civets from Asia, and nutria from South America. According to the program, many of these animals live in attics, which they soil with their excrement, causing concern about the possible transmission of diseases to humans. The program also introduced ways to protect homes from such alien species.